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# State Water Resources Control Board

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**Gray Davis**  
Governor

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov).*

January 23, 2002

Marina Fueling Facility (MFF) Owners or Operators

## MARINA FUELING FACILITY (MFF) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this letter is to update you on our MFF project activities. MFFs are aboveground and underground fuel storage and transfer systems located at marinas that dispense fuel over water. Currently, underground storage tanks (USTs) at MFFs are required to comply with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, as authorized by Chapter 6.7 of the California Health and Safety Code. Aboveground tanks (AGTs) however, are required to comply with a different set of standards as provided in Chapter 6.67 of the California Health and Safety Code.

In 1999, a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) advisory panel completed a study to determine whether marina fueling systems should be upgraded to prevent releases of MTBE and petroleum products to surface drinking water bodies. Of the numerous "Issues" and "Recommendations" identified in the panel report, implementation of two major recommendations is underway. First, to address inadequate MFF material and design criteria (which contribute to ongoing fuel releases), the panel recommended a material and design standard be written specifically for marina fueling systems. Second, the panel identified inconsistent statutory and regulatory language for MFFs and recommended that AGT and UST statutory and regulatory requirements for marinas be made consistent and specific to marina operations.

In order to accomplish this goal we have planned the following tasks as part of our MFF Project:

### Task 1 – Development of Material and Design Standard

We have contracted with Underwriter's Laboratory (UL), Inc. to develop a material and design standard for marina fueling systems. This standard covers both AGT and UST fuel storage and delivery systems. The expected publication date of the standard is July 2002.

### Task 2 – California MFF Design and Construction Database

We are in the process of collecting information on how marina fueling systems are designed and operated. Local agency and Regional Board staff are collecting this information during routine facility inspections, and data is documented on an inspection form specifically prepared for this

purpose. We plan to use this data to identify the variety of system construction and leak detection methods implemented at MFFs, and any design flaws or inadequacies at these facilities. Information we collect will also be valuable when evaluating the extent to which implementation of new requirements is necessary and the impact on existing MFFs. Our goal is to complete the database and our evaluation of MFF construction and design by March 2002.

### Task 3 – Consolidate MFF Regulations

The goal of the MFF project is to develop a comprehensive MFF regulatory program that will allow consistent implementation of protective standards, regardless of whether the fuel tank is located above or below the ground surface. However, our current statutory authority is limited to revision of the UST regulations (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 23) and does not include AGT requirements. In early 2002, we intend to begin drafting regulations for MFFs that operate USTs. We also plan evaluate how to effectively and consistently implement protective standards at MFFs with AGTs.

We recognize that marina fueling services are an essential part of recreational boating in California. Our goal is to design a proposal for implementation of MFF upgrades that will minimize service disruption to facilities that are subject to upgrades. We are also researching potential funding sources that may be made available to owners and operators to assist with fueling system upgrades.

Although we plan to provide you with periodic updates of our MFF activities, we also recommend you periodically check our website for the most recent information. MFF Project information can be found at: [www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwphome/ust/docs/marina/index.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwphome/ust/docs/marina/index.html). If you have questions regarding this letter or the MFF Project please contact Ms. Laura Chaddock, MFF Project Manager, at (916) 341-5870.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Elizabeth L. Haven for*

Shahla Daraghi Farahnak, Chief  
Leak Prevention Engineering Unit

cc: Local Agencies

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Aboveground Tanks Program